

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 /079 W

-----280904Z 025436 /22

R 280830Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3295

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG

SUBJECT: SAUDI, IRANIAN AND OTHER AID FOR ZAIRE

REF: (A) KINSHASA 3864 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 93354

1. IN MEETING REPORTED REF (A), CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR SAMBWA ADVISED US THAT ZAIRE HAS ELICITED A COMMITMENT FOR \$5 MILLION IN SAUDI AID. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA ARRIVED IN JIDDA APRIL 24 TO DISCUSS FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN THE RANGE OF \$150 MILLION.

2. ON APRIL 25 THE VOICE OF ZAIRE ANNOUNCED THAT THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DECLARED ITSELF READY TO PROVIDE AID TO ZAIRE IF ASKED.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSIES JIDDA AND TEHRAN CAN DEVELOP ON EXTENT OF SAUDI OR IRANIAN AID COMMITMENTS TO ZAIRE.

4. COMMENT: ZAIRE'S CHANCES OF OBTAINING SIGNIFICANT SAUDI OR OTHER OIL MONEY APPEAR TO US TO BE AN UNCERTAIN PROSPECT. SHOULD IT MATERIALIZE, SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT
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TO FINANCIAL RELIEF ENVISIONED THROUGH OFFICIAL DEBT RESCHEDULING, PRIVATE BANK CREDITS AND THE AID PROGRAMS OF ESTABLISHED DONORS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT THAT SUCH AID BE COORDINATED WITH THE EFFORTS OF OTHER DONORS AND CREDITORS. IN PARTICULAR, THE LINKAGE BETWEEN ASSISTANCE AND THE GOZ'S OWN STABILIZATION EFFORTS--A LINKAGE PROMINENT IN THE IMF AGREEMENT--SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND STRENGTHENED.

5. WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THE PROSPECT OF SIGNIFICANT NEW ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. IF SUCH ASSISTANCE APPEARS TO BE MATERIALIZING, WE MIGHT SUGGEST TO THE IBRD THAT THE NEW DONORS BE INVITED TO THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETINGS IN JUNE. IT ALSO MIGHT BE USEFUL TO INSURE THAT COPIES OF THE FORTHCOMING IMF AND IBRD REPORTS ON ZAIRE ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF PROSPECTIVE DONOR GOVERNMENTS. IN SUM, WE SHOULD PLAY A DISCREET ROLE EDUCATING NEW DONORS ON ZAIRIAN ECONOMIC REALITIES AND THE ONGOING ASSISTANCE EFFORTS OF OTHERS. AS THE NEW DONORS GAIN SOPHISTICATION, WE AND OTHERS MIGHT FIND THE OCCASION TO POINT OUT THE ADVANTAGES OF LINKING ASSISTANCE TO THE STABILIZATION MEASURES OF THE IMF PROGRAM.

6. WE REALIZE THAT THESE COMMENTS MAY SEEM PREMATURE BUT OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT MOBUTU WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RECENT DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY SUCCESSES TO PURSUE AGGRESSIVELY POSSIBILITIES FOR NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. ASSISTANCE NOT LINKED TO IMF STABILIZATION EFFORTS WILL DIMINISH HIS NEED AND INCLINATION TO TAKE THOSE REFORM MEASURES NECESSARY FOR LONG-RUN ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

7. WE MUST BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL TO AVOID GIVING THE GOZ ANY IMPRESSION THAT WE, THE USG, ARE TRYING TO INFLUENCE OR INTERFERE WITH DONOR ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA OR ANY OTHER SOURCE. FOR THAT REASON WE DO NOT SUGGEST THAT OUR EMBASSIES AT JIDDA OR TEHRAN MAKE A DIRECT REPRESENTATION TO SAUDI AND IRANIAN GOVERNMENTS AT THIS TIME. SIMILARLY, ANY DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER WITH THE IBRD OR IMF SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH MAXIMUM DISCRETION. END COMMENT.

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